



HR1210

LRB098 21861 MST 60720 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Pastor J.C. Smith on the 50th anniversary of his ministry; and

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WHEREAS, Pastor Smith is a native of Montgomery, Alabama; while there, he worked with Dr. M.L. King and Dr. Ralph Abernathy from 1955-1957 in the Montgomery Improvement Association during the bus boycott; he also worked as an insurance salesman for North Carolina Mutual from 1958-1962 and was the owner and operator of Smith's Clothing Store; in 1963, he moved to Harvey and became a licensed real estate salesman with the Blake Realty Company; he also became a journeyman carpenter and worked for 10 years for several general contractors before forming his own remodeling business; and

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WHEREAS, In 1964, Pastor Smith accepted his call to preach and enrolled in the Chicago Baptist Institute Seminary, graduating in 1972; he was a founding member of the Bethlehem Temple Baptist Church in Harvey in 1969 and has served as its pastor since its inception; under his leadership, the church has experienced phenomenal growth and is a staple in the south suburbs and the greater Chicago area; in June of 2001, he extended the ministry to the northwest suburbs, and, in October of 2003, Bethlehem Temple Baptist Church moved into its own

1 building in Elk Grove Village; and

2 WHEREAS, In the spring of 2002, Pastor Smith received
3 special recognition from the YMCA for community service at its
4 annual "Night Under the Stars", and, in July 2002, he was
5 presented with an honorary doctorate degree from the Mt. Carmel
6 Theological Seminary in Fresno, California; he has been listed
7 in Who's Who Among Black Americans (1977-1978) (1980-1981) and
8 has received numerous awards for his service to his country,
9 community, and church; and

10 WHEREAS, Pastor Smith and the church have operated a summer
11 day camp for the past 8 years for children ages 4-15; in 2001,
12 the first summer basketball camp was held; in 1995, the
13 Bethlehem Community Development Corporation was organized with
14 him as executive director, and under the BCDC, the Bethlehem
15 Village Housing Complex, a 72-unit building (which is now 100%
16 occupied), was built across the street from the church; and

17 WHEREAS, Pastor Smith served as president of the
18 Progressive Baptist State Congress from 1996 to 1999, while
19 also serving as vice-president of the South Suburban Ministers
20 Fellowship; he has served as president of the Progressive
21 National Baptist Convention Moderators Council for 4 years from
22 1992 to 1996, and, in 2003, he was elected and served as
23 president of the Progressive Baptist State Convention of

1 Illinois until 2007; for over 40 years, he served his community
2 as a school board member (Dist. #147), and for 20 of those
3 years, he served as president; he currently serves as president
4 of the board; he has also served 2 years as vice-president of
5 the National Caucus of Black School Board members from 1980 to
6 1982; in August of 2000, he was a delegate to the Democratic
7 National Convention in Los Angeles, California; and

8 WHEREAS, Pastor Smith served in the military from 1951 to
9 1953 and graduated from the Weaver's School of Real Estate in
10 1958; he is married to Willie M. Myricks-Smith, and, on June 3,
11 2011, they celebrated their 55th year of marriage; he is a
12 father of 5 children, Jennifer, Jonathan, Jeffrey, Jerrold, and
13 Jacques, and a grandfather of 14; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we congratulate Pastor J.C. Smith on the 50th anniversary of
17 his ministry and wish him many more years; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to Pastor Smith as an expression of our esteem and
20 respect.